



Northern College
Indigenous Council on Education
Minutes of Meeting held June 19, 2015

Present: Micheal Miller, Chair, Indigenous Council
 Fred Gibbons, Northern College President, Indigenous Council Member
 John Beck, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member
 Veronica Nicholson, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member
 Dorothy Larkman, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member
 Lillian Trapper, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member
 Chantal Cote, Metis Nation of Ontario, Indigenous Council Member
 Irene Tomatuk, Mushkegowuk, Indigenous Council Member
 Kathy Cheechoo, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member

Resources: Mike Baker, Vice-President, Finance, Administration and Indigenous Services
 Audrey Penner, Vice-President, Academic and Student Success
 Christine Heavens, Executive Director, Community, Business Development and Employment Services
 Lynn Berthiaume, Executive Director, Student Services, Institutional Research and Registrar
 Willard Small, Indigenous Student Advisor (part)
 Kathy Gagain, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Ken Neegan, Open Seat, Indigenous Council Member
 Kim Naveau, Wabun, Indigenous Council Member

Agenda Item	Action
<p>1. Opening</p> <p>(a) Acknowledgement of Territory</p> <p>Chair Micheal Miller opened the meeting with the acknowledgement of territory and paid respect to the sacred items and the Elders present.</p> <p>(b) Opening Prayer</p> <p>Vice-Chair John Beck opened the meeting with a prayer.</p> <p>(c) Introductions</p> <p>All present introduced themselves.</p>	

(d) Welcome – Micheal Miller, Chair

Micheal thanked Northern College for making the signing of the Protocol such a special event. On behalf of his fellow Council members, Micheal thanked the College for the plaques they received in honour of their dedication to education. He noted that the plaques were a very pleasant surprise.

Micheal encouraged Council members to look back on the progress that the College has made to date, noting that the seven principles in the Protocol will serve to push the College and the Council towards even greater accomplishments.

(d) Welcome and Update – Fred Gibbons, President

Fred noted that it had been a challenge to achieve a balanced budget at March 31, 2015 and advised that the forecast was not much brighter for the future. Work is being done to implement strategies so that the College can be in as good a financial situation as possible.

Fred advised that the current 2013-2016 Strategic Plan will be complete effective March 31st, 2016. The plan has served us well over the past years, leading us to achieve a 90% success rate over the various initiatives in our Business Plan.

Discussions to date confirm there is no need to change the current four strategic directions: Accessible Education, Signature Programs, The Northern Experience and Indigenous Perspectives. Senior Management met with Clearlogic consultants to discuss updating the environmental scan and facilitating a session to develop new goals. These goals will then serve to inform us in developing initiatives for the business plan for the next three years. The input of our Indigenous Council in this process will be important.

Fred advised that as the Board of Governors Entrance Scholarship Fund does not have many funds left, the College has mounted our very first bursary fund raising campaign - Building our Leaders of Tomorrow.

In response to the question “How do we get our children trained in preparation for the Ring of Fire?”, Fred noted that it is necessary for the College to stay close to the partners that we have signed MoU’s with. He told of \$4 million on training that has taken place in Thunder Bay and there are not yet any jobs available. Fred will ensure that the College will have the right tools in the tool box and have them ready when required.

It was suggested that advertising that there is Indigenous content into the curriculum would be a way to attract Indigenous students. It was also noted that as our communities are at capacity in terms of sponsoring students to go to school, we must

look aggressively at how can we help students who cannot get funding to come to Northern College.

2. AGENDA / MINUTES/BUSINESS ARISING

(a) Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and Lightning Trail was added under New Business.

Moved by: Veronica

Seconded by: Chantal

THAT the agenda of the Northern College Indigenous Council on Education dated June 19, 2015 be adopted as amended.

Carried

(b) Approval of Minutes

Meeting held April 10, 2015

The minutes of the meeting held April 10, 2015 were reviewed.

Moved by: Irene

Seconded by: Veronica

THAT the minutes of the Northern College Indigenous Council on Education meeting of April 10, 2015 be approved as presented.

Carried

(c) Business Arising

Vacancy – Matawa Tribal Council

There has been no response to the letter requesting representation on Council.

Kathy will follow up.

Kathy

Appointment of Elders to the Council

Dorothy and Chantal will forward names.

3. RESOURCE REPORTS

Willard Small, Indigenous Student Advisor, Moosonee

Willard thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting. Willard advised that the graduation ceremony at the Moosonee Campus was held on May 26, 2015. The ceremony was well attended and twenty-six students graduated. The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Elaine Innes. Dr. Innes, a graduate of Northern College, just received notice that she has successfully obtained her license to practice medicine in Ontario. Her speech was inspiring and well received.

Willard noted one of the duties of his position is to contact perspective students who have applied. He shared that many students have applied to the Paramedic program

and that he contacts those who have not yet confirmed with the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS). Willard contacts the applicants by telephone to see what they want to do. With the many applicants from Southern Ontario who apply to the Moosonee Campus, Willard lets them know where Moosonee is and what is available.

Willard has also been visiting high schools and helped set up a Professional Management Workshop for Fort Albany First Nation.

4. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Rural and Remote Nursing – Presentation

Third-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing students provided the Council with an overview of their elective – Rural and Remote Nursing. The students enjoyed the week they spent in Moose Factory/Moosonee and were looking forward to visiting Mattagami First Nation. The overarching principle of this course is that understanding and respecting the culture will lead to better patient care.

Council was pleased that this has happened as nurses are very important in small communities.

(b) Student Satisfaction Survey

Lynn provided a brief overview of the process and the numbers with regard to the Student Satisfaction Survey, noting that this is a survey that is conducted at every college in Ontario. All but 5 questions are the same; the college has a chance to have 5 college specific questions. The process is formalized by an agreement. Council reviewed the 5-year trend.

Lynn noted that starting in February 2016, the following questions will ask students to self-identify.

82a. Do you want to self-identify as an Aboriginal Person?
(An Aboriginal person is considered a person related to, or descended from, the Original peoples of Canada).

Yes → Go to Question 82b No

82b. Select the description(s) that you self-identify with:

- First Nation (Status/Non-Status Indian)
- Métis
- Inuk (Inuit)

- I use an alternative term to describe my Aboriginal ancestry and/or identity (e.g. Anishinaabe, Treaty #3)
Specify: _____

Council was pleased that the question is being asked; however, there should also be an explanation as to why this question is being asked. If it is because the Indigenous initiatives will be better funded if there are a greater number of students, then those who consider self-identifying should be advised.

Council is looking forward to the results of next year's survey.

(c) Indigenous Student Survey

Mike Baker reviewed the survey questions with the Council. It was suggested that it would be easier for the students if the services that are available could just be listed and then the student could just check them off.

It was also recommended that the survey be administered every two years.

Lynn and Mike will meet to see if any of the questions are duplicated in either of the surveys and will bring back a revision to the next meeting.

(d) Indigenous Services – A Year in Review

Indigenous Services – A Year In Review

Mike highlighted the report which listed many of the activities that had taken place at Northern College during the past year. When it was listed together in one place, it was impressive and at the same time, served as a challenge to do even more and better activities to support our Indigenous learners and communities.

(e) Strategic Planning

Extensive consultation took place when developing the current strategic plan. Over 1,000 external people participated, plus internal participation. In reflecting on the document, it has been determined that the four strategic directions are still sound. Our environmental scan goes back to 2012 and there have been many changes since that time.

The environmental scan needs will be refreshed by the consultants who helped with the current Strategic Plan. The internal community (which includes the Indigenous Council) will meet to determine the goals. Fred asked the Council to take ownership of

that part of the plan by completing a survey and/or attending a facilitated session to obtain your input.

(f) Curriculum Development

Audrey provided the following update with regard to embedding Indigenous content into the curriculum.

- Concerted effort to look at our General Arts and Science program to ensure that there was Indigenous content in that curriculum.
- Health and Community Services programs are doing very well.
- Trades and Technology – if students take electives it will happen. Fred referred to the Northern College collaborative model. We have to mesh curriculum for 6 colleges. One of the things we are looking at is how we bring Indigenous content into each program.

Audrey requested Council's feedback at the next meeting with regard to using the 7 principles that Confederation Colleges any time they develop a new program:

- Relate to the career field
- Analyze the impact of colonialism
- Explain the relationship of land
- Compare Aboriginal Canadian perceptions
- Analyze racism
- Generate strategies
- Formulate approaches for engaging Aboriginal community partners

Audrey looks forward to hearing Council's thoughts on this matter.

(g) Lightning Trail

Mike provided an update on the plans for Lightning Trail 2015, taking place August 9, to 14, 2015. Opening activities include Dr. Emily J. Faries as the key note speaker, followed by a feast. Due to the tremendous success last year, Skills Canada will be involved again this year. Traditional teachings and the opportunity to get "hands on" time on a variety of skilled trades will occur once again as these are the two top components that has made this camp the success that it has been.

To date, there were 27 applicants, with more coming in daily.

5. COUNCIL DIALOGUE WITH SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Vice-President, Finance, Administration and Indigenous Services

Mike reported that the fiscal year ended with a \$12,000 surplus and that the Audit went very well. He did note that with the slowdown in mining activity, the slowdown

in the associated training by the mines has hurt our budget by some \$500,000. It is hoped to offset this by increasing the number of international students.

Vice-President, Student Success

Audrey noted that the college was preparing for another round of quality assurance accreditation and that she had just completed a reorganization in the Academic division. This has resulted in a flatter model; faculty and management are closer together and terminology that matches better other colleges, using the titles of Deans and Associate Deans.

6. MEETING CONCLUSION

(a) Closing Comments

Chair Miller noted that today gives us a firm footing as to what we want to pursue and shows great potential for our First Nation communities.

Micheal thanked everyone for attending and wished a great long weekend/happy Aboriginal day.

(b) Future Agenda Items

Appointment of Elders to the Council

(c) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled

(d) Meeting Evaluation Form

Council provided their completed meeting evaluation form to Kathy.

(e) Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with a prayer.
